Domestic airport in Purnea (Bihar)

302. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an urgent necessity of a domestic airport in Purnea (Bihar);

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the previous Government, a serious effort was made for establishing it and all the preliminary works like survey etc. had been made;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Air Force Headquarters had granted permission for setting up a domestic airport in Purnea;

(d) if so, why this proposal is shelved;

(e) whether Government have any plan to establish the same; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Presently no such request is under consideration.

(b) Yes, Sir. In 2001-02, efforts were made to establish a civil enclave at Indian Air Force (IAF) airport, Purnea.

(c) and (d) AAI officials, during 2001-02, had selected two sites to initially develop a temporary terminal infrastructure but No Objection Certificate (NOC) was not issued by Air Headquarters/Ministry of Defence due to security and operational implications.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

Development of airports in Karnataka

303. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has requested the Centre to develop an Airport each at Gulbarga, Hassan, Bijapur, Shimoga, Belgaum, etc., where certain private airlines have evinced interest in operating their respective flights to these proposed airports; and

(b) if so, the details of each project proposal and Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka (GoK) has decided to develop new Greenfield Airports at Gulbarga, Hassan, Bijapur and Shimoga through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) route. The State Government has been advised to get feasibility reports of the proposed airports prepared, obtain required statutory approvals/clearances from authorities concerned and submit the proposals to Government of India for grant of "In-Principle" approval.

For development of Belgaum Airport, the GoK has agreed to provide 370 acres of additional land free of cost to Airports Authority of India (AAI). This airport is being developed by AAI.

New Civil Aviation Policy

304. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recently asked the Group of Ministers (GoM) to review the current guidelines in which airlines were required to adhere to route dispersal guidelines (RDG) to connect the remote areas in the Jammu and Kashmir, North-Eastern Region, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by GoM; and

(c) what new measures Government propose to undertake under its New National Civil Aviation Policy, including incentives to encourage Civil Aviation Area in the country, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The draft National Civil Aviation Policy is presently under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GoM). However, no specific issues/proposals have been referred for the consideration of GoM.

(c) Matter is under consideration of the Government.

Manpower in aviation industry

305. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth in the aviation industry has not been able to match upto the availability of talent leading to high premium on skilled manpower;

(b) if so, how we propose to get about 2000-2500 pilots annually when our existing training institutes produce about 300 pilots annually; and

(c) similarly, how the requirement of about 40,000 cabin crew is going to be met in the coming five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) In view of the recent boom in civil aviation in the country, shortage of skilled manpower is being felt in the industry.

(b) The Government has taken various steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled pilots. These include conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under prescribed conditions for pilots, upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through